

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 SAJ-01 NIC-01 /070 W

----- 000557

R 270839Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4583

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 1530

NOFORN

CINCPAC FOR PLAD

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS MOPS PFOR PINT CH TW

SUBJECT: PRC RELEASE OF "WAR CRIMINALS"

REF: A. HONG KONG 3005 B. TAIPEI 1393

1. THE GROC HAS STILL NOT MADE ANY OFFICIAL STATEMENT CONCERNING THE RELEASE. THE ONLY MENTION TO APPEAR IN LOCAL PRESS ON THE RELEASE OF THE "WAR CRIMINALS" SINCE REF B WAS A BRIEF CNA REPORT CARRIED IN ALL MAJOR PAPERS MARCH 22 FROM THE HONG KONG "KUAI PAO" REPEATING LOCAL PRESS LINE REPORTED REF B THAT RELEASE WAS A "UNITED FRONT TRICK".

2. EMBASSY CONTACTS HAVE NOT DISCUSSED THE RELEASE OF PRISONERS WITH ANY GREAT INTEREST--IN PART WE BELIEVE BECAUSE OF LOCAL SENSITIVITY. HOWEVER, IN A ROUTINE DESK-LEVEL DISCUSSION OF PRC PROPAGANDA BETWEEN A TDC MAJOR AND THREE COLONELS AT MND, CONFIDENTIAL

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THE CHINESE OFFICERS EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT THE PRC

WOULD ALLOW AMNESTIED MEN TO COME TO TAIWAN. THEY
NOTED IN ANY CASE THAT THE MEN HAVE BEEN BRAINWASHED
AND WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY WORK FOR PRC.

3. COMMENT: EMBASS BELIEVES STATEMENT BY HONG KONG
CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY DIRECTOR REPORTED REF A (WHICH HAS
NOT BEEN REPORTED LOCALLY) IS GROC'S INTENDED RESPONSE
TO PRC PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN. IF PRESSURED SUFFICIENTLY
BY INTERNATIONAL MEDIA AND CONFRONTED WITH PRESENCE
IN HONG KONG OF RELEASED "WAR CRIMINALS" EQUIPPED
TO TRAVEL TO TAIWAN, GROC MAY RELUCTANTLY ACCEPT THEM;
HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE GROC WOULD STILL PREFER TO SEE
WHOLE ISSUE DIE QUICKLY, PROVING THAT PRC OFFER TO
ALLOW TRAVEL TO TAIWAN WAS JUST ANOTHER CANARD
COOKED UP IN PEKING.
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Message Attributes

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TAGS: MOPS, PFOR, PINT, CH, TW
To: STATE
Type: TE
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